

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for performing cadence detection on a signal, said apparatus comprising:

- an input for receiving an input signal potentially manifesting a certain cadence;
- a signal processing functional block coupled to said input for receiving the input signal, said signal processing functional block being operative to successively compute confidence level values over time during a processing period, a currently computed confidence level value being indicative of a likelihood of existence of a certain cadence in the input signal since a beginning of said processing period, ~~said processing period being characterised by a variable duration~~ said signal processing functional block being further operative to terminate said processing period when the currently computed confidence level and an amount of time remaining in said processing period indicate that the certain cadence is unlikely to be detected before reaching the end of said processing period;

- said signal processing functional block including an output for generating an output signal indicative of the confidence level value at the end of said processing period.

2. (Original) An apparatus a defined in claim 1, wherein said signal processing functional block is operative to selectively terminate the processing period on the basis of the currently computed confidence level value.

3. (Original) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said signal processing functional block is operative to terminate said processing period when the currently computed confidence level value reaches a certain threshold.
4. (Original) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said signal processing functional block is operative to terminate said processing period when a duration of said processing period exceeds a certain value.
5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method for performing cadence detection on a signal, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a signal potentially manifesting a certain cadence;
- successively computing confidence level values over time during a processing period, a currently computed confidence level value being indicative of a likelihood of existence of a certain cadence in the input signal since a beginning of said processing period, ~~said processing period being characterised by a variable duration;~~
- terminating said processing period when the currently computed confidence level value and an amount of time remaining in said processing period indicate that the certain cadence is unlikely to be detected before reaching the end of said processing period;
- generating an output signal indicative of the confidence level value at the end of said processing period.

7. (Original) A method defined in claim 6, comprising the step of selectively terminating the processing period on the basis of the currently computed confidence level value.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 6, comprising the step of terminating said processing period when the currently computed confidence level value reaches a certain threshold.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 6, comprising the step of terminating said processing period when a duration of said processing period exceeds a certain value.
10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for performing cadence detection on a signal, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving an input signal potentially manifesting a certain cadence;
- processing said signal to successively compute confidence level values over time during a processing period, a currently computed confidence level value being indicative of a likelihood of existence of a certain cadence in the input signal since a beginning of said processing period;

- ~~controlling a duration of said processing period on a basis of the currently computed confidence level value~~ terminating said processing period when the currently computed confidence level value and an amount of time remaining in said processing period indicate that the certain cadence is unlikely to be detected before reaching the end of said processing period.

12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, comprising the step of terminating the processing period when the currently computed confidence level value reaches a predetermined threshold.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 11, ~~wherein the duration of~~ comprising the step of terminating said processing period when a duration of said processing period does not exceed exceeds a certain value.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus performing cadence detection on a signal, said apparatus comprising:

- an input for receiving an input signal potentially manifesting a certain cadence;
- a signal processing functional block for processing said signal to successively compute confidence level values over time during a processing period, a currently computed confidence level value being indicative of a likelihood of existence of a certain cadence in the input signal since a beginning of said processing period;
- a duration control unit for controlling the duration of said processing period on a basis of the currently computed confidence level value, said duration control unit being operative to terminate said processing period when the currently computed confidence level and an amount of time remaining in said processing period indicate that the certain cadence is unlikely to be detected before reaching the end of said processing period.

15. (Original) An apparatus as defined in claim 14, wherein said duration control unit is operative to terminate the processing period when the currently computed confidence level value reaches a predetermined threshold.

16. (Original) An apparatus as defined in claim 14, wherein the duration of said processing does not exceed a certain value.

17. (Currently Amended) A tone detection apparatus suitable for detection of call progress tones, a call progress tone being characterised by at least one frequency component and a timing behaviour defining a certain cadence, said apparatus comprising:

- an input for receiving an input signal potentially containing a call progress tone, the signal being capable of being divided in a plurality of consecutive sections;
- a spectral processing unit for processing said signal to generate a plurality of sets of data elements, the sets of data elements providing spectral information about respective sections of the input signal;
- a frequency component processing unit coupled to said spectral processing unit for receiving sets of data elements and for processing the sets of data elements to output sets of classification data elements indicating whether a frequency component of a certain call progress tone exists in respective sections of the input signal;
- a cadence processing unit coupled to said frequency component processing unit for receiving and processing sets of classification data elements to compute over time successive confidence level values for the input signal during a processing period encompassing the sections of the input signal that correspond to the sets of classification data elements processed by the cadence processing unit, a currently computed confidence level value being indicative of a likelihood of existence of a certain cadence in the input signal since a beginning of said processing period, ~~said processing period being characterised by a variable duration~~ said cadence processing unit being operative to terminate said processing period when the currently computed confidence level and an

amount of time remaining in said processing period indicate that the certain cadence is unlikely to be detected before reaching the end of said processing period;

- said cadence processing unit including an output for generating a signal indicative of the confidence level value at the end of said processing period.

18. (Original) An apparatus a defined in claim 17, wherein said cadence processing unit is operative to selectively terminate the processing period on the basis of the currently computed confidence level value.

19. (Original) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein said cadence processing unit is operative to terminate said processing period when the currently computed confidence level value reaches a certain threshold.

20. (Original) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein said cadence processing unit is operative to terminate said processing period when a duration of said processing period exceeds a certain value.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A method for performing tone detection suitable for the detection of call progress tones, a call progress tone being characterised by at least one frequency component and a timing behaviour defining a certain cadence, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving an input signal potentially containing a call progress tone, the signal being capable of being divided in a plurality of consecutive sections;
- processing said signal to generate a plurality of sets of data elements, the sets of data elements providing spectral information about respective sections of the input signal;
- processing the sets of data elements to output sets of classification data elements indicating whether a frequency component of a certain call progress tone exists in respective sections of the input signal;
- processing said sets of classification data elements to compute over time successive confidence level values for the input signal during a processing period encompassing the sections of the input signal that correspond to the sets of classification data elements processed by the cadence processing unit, a currently computed confidence level value being indicative of a likelihood of existence of a certain cadence in the input signal since a beginning of said processing period, ~~said processing period being characterised by a variable duration;~~
- terminating said processing period when the currently computed confidence level and an amount of time remaining in said processing period indicate that the certain cadence is unlikely to be detected before reaching the end of said processing period

- generating a signal indicative of the confidence level value at the end of said processing period.

23. (Original) A method a defined in claim 22, further comprising the step of selectively terminating the processing period on the basis of the currently computed confidence level value.

24. (Original) A method as defined in claim 22, wherein said terminating step terminates said processing period when the currently computed confidence level value reaches a certain threshold.

25. (Original) A method as defined in claim 22, wherein said terminating step terminates said processing period when a duration of said processing period exceeds a certain value.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Original) A tone detection system for use in a telecommunication network comprising the apparatus defined in claim 1.

28. - 33. (Canceled)